

HERSETH SANDLIN STATEMENT ON F-16S FOR JOE FOSS FIELD

Washington, DC (February 25, 2010)- Today, Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin issued the following statement in response to the announcement that the South Dakota Air National Guard will be receiving newer F-16s this year that will help secure the 114th Fighter Wing's mission into the next decade.

The National Guard Bureau announced Thursday that the South Dakota Air Guard will receive 18 Block 40 F-16s in the third or fourth quarter of FY10 in order to replace the older Block 30 planes the 114th Fighter Wing is currently flying. The new planes have a longer lifespan and are not scheduled to be retired until 2020-22, compared to 2017-18 for the 114th Fighter Wing's current F-16s.

"The 114th Fighter Wing at Joe Foss Field is a critical component of our national security, and I am pleased that the National Guard Bureau and Air Force is recognizing its importance by moving ahead with plans to transfer newer F-16s to the South Dakota Air Guard," Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. "This is a welcome and well-deserved announcement that reflects well on the 114th Fighter Wing, and I'll continue to work with Air Force leadership and my colleagues National Guard units to support this mission and others at Joe Foss Field."

Next week, Rep. Herseth Sandlin is scheduled to meet with General William Fraser, commander of Air Combat Command, the overall command organization for both the 114th Fighter Wing as well as the B-1 bombers at Ellsworth Air Force Base to discuss critical issues related to both Joe Foss Field and Ellsworth.

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